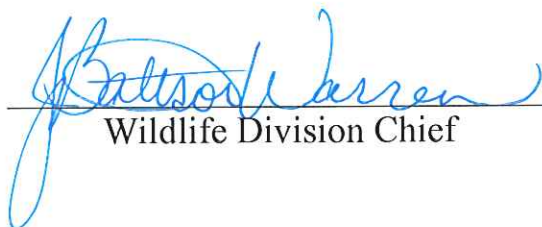


Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Lands

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2015-2024




Wildlife Division Chief

10/22/15
Date

Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Lands

Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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SOUTHEAST REGION

SE RCT Chair



Signature


Date

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief


Signature


Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Wappapello Lake Management Lands	6627	1988 ¹	1,880	Wayne	Wildlife	Wildlife
Clearwater Lake Management Lands	7914	1979 ²	12,659	Reynolds, Wayne	Wildlife	Wildlife

¹ Wappapello Lake Management Lands are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leased to the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) for wildlife management. The Department began managing this area in 1988.

² Clearwater Lake Management Lands are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leased to the Department for wildlife management. The Department began managing this area in 1979.

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Lands (ML) provide wildlife with quality habitat. Emphasis is placed on the management of upland habitat. Aquatic resources are managed to maximize recreational sport fishing opportunities. These areas also provide opportunity for the public to have a quality outdoor experience.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future landscape conditions for both areas are landscapes that sustain and promote wildlife. Emphasis is placed on providing habitat for upland game and providing a quality experience for area users. Aquatic resources are managed to sustain and promote recreational sport fishing opportunities.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Wappapello Lake ML	Priority Forest Landscape, Big Creek Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), Clark Creek Aquatic COA, Mudlick – Igneous Knobs Terrestrial COA, Mudlick Glade/Woodlands Terrestrial COA	None
Clearwater Lake ML	Priority Forest Landscape, Mudlick – Pine Hills Terrestrial COA, Upper Black Breaks Terrestrial COA, Mudlick – Igneous Knobs Terrestrial COA, Sinking Creek Aquatic COA	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Wappapello Lake ML	Yes ¹	None	Yes ²
Clearwater Lake ML	Yes ¹	None	Yes ²

¹ Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.

² Records kept with the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Natural History Biologist.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Concrete Boat Ramps	Boat Slides	Parking Area #	Multi-use Trail
Wappapello Lake ML	None	None	6	Ozark Trail – 4.2 miles (hike/bike/horse)
Clearwater Lake ML	4 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responsibility)	None	12	None

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Wappapello Lake ML	Yes ¹	Yes ³	None	None	None	None	None
Clearwater Lake ML	Yes ²	Yes ³	None	None	None	None	None

¹ 25-year lease from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2012-2037)

² 25-year lease from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2004-2028)

³ Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management centers on providing quality habitat for all wildlife; maintaining a riparian buffer to maintain healthy streams; and providing a quality outdoor experience for area users. Area maintenance is provided by Wildlife Division staff.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide quality habitat for wildlife use.
- 2) Maintain riparian buffers.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality habitat for wildlife use.

Strategy 1: Manage open land by mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire and other available methods.

Strategy 2: Manage wooded areas to improve forest/woodland health by mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire and other available methods.

Strategy 3: Provide cover for wildlife by mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire and other available methods.

Strategy 4: Eliminate or reduce invasive species populations with mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire and other methods available.

Strategy 5: Reduce habitat damage from illegal off-road trespass with improved signage and increased law enforcement efforts.

Management Objective 2: Maintain a riparian corridor that is at least 100 feet in width.

Strategy 1: Maintain/establish corridors along streams where vegetation is undisturbed.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide quality sport fishing opportunities.
- 2) Prevent excessive stream bank erosion.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality sport fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Monitor fish populations and set regulations accordingly.

Strategy 2: Provide cover with vegetation, submerged brush piles, etc.

Management Objective 2: Prevent excessive stream bank erosion.

Strategy 1: Continue to monitor, establish and promote vegetation within 100 feet of all streams.

Strategy 2: Management will be done according to the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009).

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Maintain suitable public access points.

Management Objective 1: Maintain suitable public access at each area.

Strategy 1: Maintain all parking lots and access points at level 2 maintenance standards.

Strategy 2: Maintain signage at the accesses in accordance with Department policy.

Strategy 3: Maintain area boundaries as agreed upon in area leases.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Comply with area leases.

Management Objective 1: Comply with area leases.

Strategy 1: Know and understand area leases.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:

The draft Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Lands Plan was available for a public comment period June 1–30, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Lands Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Lands public comment period

Appreciates upland game management on Clearwater area.

The Missouri Department of Conservation will continue to implement wildlife management across the areas in accordance to the lease agreements.

Appreciates efforts to control feral hogs.

It is the goal of the Department to eradicate feral hogs from Missouri. We will continue to work towards the goal of eradication, in accordance to the lease agreements and rules and regulations.

Appreciates allowing horseback riding on the portion of the Ozark Trail that crosses Wappapello Lake Management Lands. Suggests developing additional multi-use trails west of St. Francis River to create a 10 mile loop with the Ozark Trail.

The current 4.2 miles of the Ozark Trail that crosses Wappapello Lake ML will continue to be maintained and open to horseback riding, as well as hiking and biking, in accordance with all rules, regulations and lease agreements. We have no plans to add new trails to the existing Ozark Trail across Wappapello Lake ML. Our goal is to provide continued access and usage for multiple area users without adding additional maintenance and repair of trails for existing staff. In addition to the 4.2 miles of horseback riding opportunity on Wappapello Lake Management Lands, other nearby opportunities include multi-use trails at Sam A. Baker State Park, Lake Wappapello State Park, St. Joe State Park, University Forest Conservation Area, Castor River Conservation Area, Crane Lake Recreation Area, and Rock Pile Mountain Wilderness.

References:

Clearwater Lake Management Lands lease agreement.

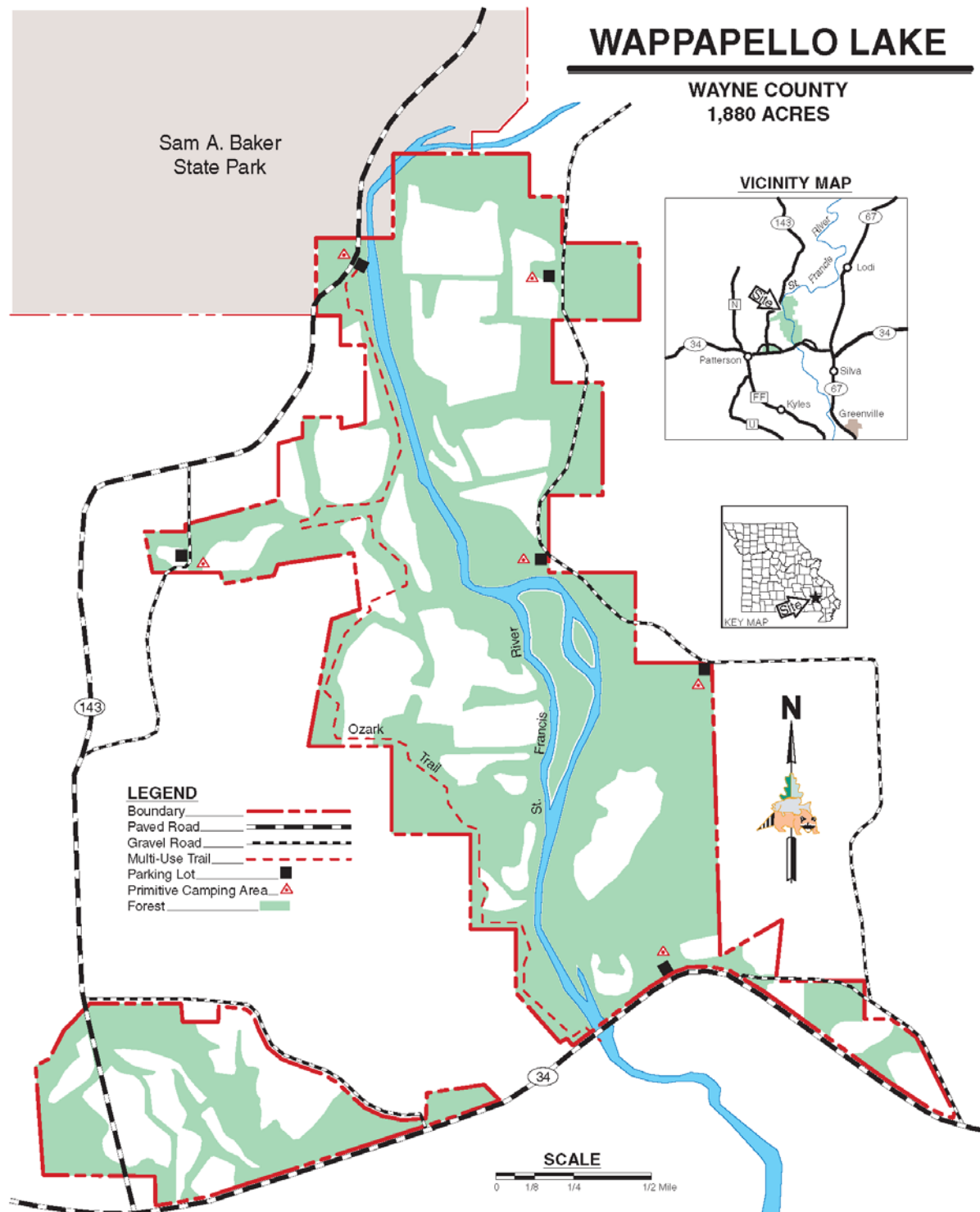
Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Department of Conservation.

Wappapello Lake Management Lands lease agreement.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1. Wappapello Lake Management Lease Area Map
- Appendix 2. Wappapello Lake Management Lease Area Background
- Appendix 3. Clearwater Lake Management Lease Area Map
- Appendix 4. Clearwater Lake Management Lease Area Background
- Appendix 5. Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Plan Public Comments

Appendix 1. Wappapello Lake Management Lease Area Map



Appendix 2. Wappapello Lake Management Lease Area Background

The Department leased this portion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project from the St. Louis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1987 for 25 years and renewed the lease in 2012 for another 25 years. The St. Francis River runs from north to south bisecting the area. The west side was grazed intensely under a preferential lease until the lessee died in 2002. The east side was intensely row cropped until the mid-1990s. The entire area is now managed for wildlife. The area receives heavy use from fishing, hunting and traveling the Ozark Trail.

Legal Description: Wayne County-Township 29North, Range 5E, Section 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 17.

Area Location: Wappapello Lake Management Lease is located approximately 2.5 miles east of Patterson, Missouri on 34 Highway, north of the St. Francis River bridge.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	1,037		55
Grassland	696		37
Cropland	140		7.5
Wetland	7		0.5
Total	1,880		100
Creek Frontage		2.0	
River Frontage		4.0	

Appendix 3. Clearwater Lake Management Lease Area Map



Appendix 4. Clearwater Lake Management Lease Area Background

Clearwater Lake was initially leased from the Little Rock District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jan. 1, 1979, for a period of 25 years, and was renewed in 2004 to run through 2028. The lease includes land on both sides of the Black River, Sinking Creek, Logan Creek, Webb Creek and Goose Creek that is in the flood zone of Clearwater Dam, totaling 12,659 acres (excluding boat ramps, utility-equipped camping parks and select permittee leases). Clearwater Lake is a flood control reservoir. The land upstream of Clearwater Dam (the Management Lease) is prone to flooding, sometimes prolonged flooding, due to the large slow draining flood plain downstream (in Arkansas). Due to frequent flooding, vegetation is difficult to establish and maintain on the area. Clearwater Lake is used moderately for fishing, hunting and hiking.

Legal Description: Project office - Wayne Co. - Township 28 North, Range 3E, Section 6.

Area Location: Clearwater Lake Management Lease is located in Wayne and Reynolds counties, starting 7 miles west of Piedmont, tracking north on both sides of the Black River to Highway K in Reynolds County, totaling 12,659 acres.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	9,874		78
Fishing/Recreation Lake	1,519		12
Grassland (non-prairie)	886		7
Cropland	380		3
Total	12,659		100
Stream Frontage		26	

Appendix 5. Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2015):

I realize that you all are looking for very general info regarding these mgmt plans and on that note I am thankful for the upland game management on the Clearwater area. My family has owned land on this area or joining the area from 1867 up until this present day. Deer and Turkey populations have increased in the last several years.. We had priority leases on part of this corp property prior to MoCom taking over the management responsibility in 1979. We continue to work with the conservation biologists even today. I believe both parties have benefited. MoCom has a permittee who follows rules and regs and treats the land like they would if it was their own. We are able to utilize machinery on a larger acreage in a narrowing profit potential. The one is myself the grandson of Lee Mann who much of the property was bought from and now my son and grandson who help with farming chores. I also appreciate the effort that your people made in trying to control feral Hogs...

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake Management Lands Management Plan. My comments pertain to the Wappapello Lake Management Lands.

Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen commends the Department for allowing equestrian use on the 4.2 mile segment of the Ozark Trail that crosses the CA generally following the west property boundary. Although the Draft Management Plan lists no intent we hope and trust that that permission will continue.

The 2015 SMMBCH "Proposal to Increase Public Land Multi-Use Trails in Missouri" recognizes the recreational opportunity that the OT crossing Wappapello Management Lands offers to equestrians in Wayne County and the surrounding community. The Proposal recommends that additional trails be marked and designated to enhance this opportunity—specifically a trail roughly parallel to the east property boundary on the west side of the St. Francis River. This would create a trail loop between Highway 34 and Sam A. Baker State Park that should be around 10 miles in length—a good half-day ride.

SMMBCH offers, subject to availability of volunteers, to assist in laying out, cutting, and marking the new trail.

Thank you for your due consideration.